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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Eleventh session
New York, 12–14 June 2018

Report of the eleventh session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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I. Introduction

1. The eleventh session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 14 June 2018.

2. Six meetings were held at the eleventh session of the Conference. On 12 June, the 1st and 2nd meetings were convened to consider agenda item 1 (opening of the eleventh session of the Conference), item 2 (adoption of the agenda), item 3 (organization of work), item 4 (election of the members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and item 5 (a) (matters related to the implementation of the Convention: general debate). Two rounds of elections were held on the same day, in accordance with article 34 of the Convention, to elect nine members to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Three round tables were held at the 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 13 and 14 June. At its 6th meeting, on 14 June, the Conference considered agenda item 6 (interactive dialogue among States parties, the United Nations system and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Convention), item 7 (decisions by the Conference of States Parties) and item 8 (closing of the meeting).

3. The text of the decisions adopted by the Conference is contained in annex I. The President's summary of the session is contained in annex II and the list of non-governmental organizations accredited to the Conference in annex III.

II. Opening of the Conference

4. The Conference was opened by the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations and President of the Conference, Georgi Panayotov.

5. At its first meeting, the Conference adopted the provisional agenda (CRPD/CSP/2018/1) and agreed on the organization of work of the session.

6. Pursuant to rule 25, paragraph 5 (c), of the rules of procedure, 29 new non-governmental organizations were accredited to the Conference.

7. Opening statements were made by the President of the Conference; the Secretary-General; the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Theresia Degener; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar; the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, María Soledad Cisternas Reyes; and a civil society representative, Colin Allen.

III. Election of the members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

8. Under agenda item 4, the following nine candidates were elected as members of the Committee whose terms will begin on 1 January 2019: Rosemary Kayess (Australia), Miyeon Kim (Republic of Korea), Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame (Ghana), Jonas Ruskus (Lithuania), Markus Schefer (Switzerland), Danlami Umaru Basharu (Nigeria), Mara Cristina Gabrilli (Brazil), Amalia Eva Gamio Ríos (Mexico) and Risnawati Utami (Indonesia).

IV. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: general debate

9. During the general debate (agenda item 5 (a)), statements were made by 102 States parties,[1] including 1 regional integration organization.

10. Statements were also made by 4 country groups[2] and 25 observers, including 3 international organizations, [3] the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, 3 national human rights institutions [4] and 17 non-governmental organizations.[5] A written statement was also received from 1 country group.[6]

V. Round-table discussions

11. On 13 and 14 June, the Conference held round tables at its 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings. At each round table, presentations were given by a panel of speakers, followed by interactive discussions.

Round table 1: national fiscal space, public-private partnerships and international cooperation for strengthening the implementation of the Convention

12. The round-table discussion, under agenda item 5 (b) (i), was co-chaired by the representative of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations and Vice-President of the Conference, Thomas Rohland, and Setareki Macanawai, of the Pacific Disability Forum. Presentations were given by five panellists: the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility; Yayoi Kitamura, of the National Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities, Japan; Magino Corporán, of the National Council on Disability, Dominican Republic; Vladimir Cuk,

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[1] Statements were delivered by Kiribati, Ecuador, Canada, Nigeria, New Zealand, Paraguay, Denmark, Ghana, Ireland, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Brazil, Albania, Namibia, Ukraine, El Salvador, South Africa, the Russian Federation, Lesotho, Australia, Belgium, Kenya, India, the Niger, Burkina Faso, Norway, Nicaragua, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Germany, Tunisia, Finland, Morocco, Israel, Austria, Portugal, Peru, Mexico, Slovenia, Argentina, Uruguay, Switzerland, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Colombia, Panama, Jordan, Spain, Monaco, Thailand, the European Union, Poland, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Cuba, Jamaica, Senegal, Georgia, Andorra, Japan, Angola, Afghanistan, the Republic of Korea, Hungary, Nepal, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Myanmar, China, Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sweden, Indonesia, Samoa, Estonia, the Netherlands, Singapore, Libya, Costa Rica, Chile, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Qatar, Egypt, Armenia, the Dominican Republic, Kuwait, Malta, Iceland, Mali, Liberia, Romania, the State of Palestine, Togo, France, Mauritania and Guinea.

[2] Member States of the Global Action on Disability Network, member States of the Group of Friends of Persons with Disabilities, member States of the Commonwealth, and Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia.

[3] World Intellectual Property Organization, International Labour Organization and World Health Organization.

[4] Public Defender of Georgia, New Zealand Human Rights Commission and Australian Human Rights Commission.

[5] International Disability Alliance, Disabled Peoples' International, European Disability Forum, Humanity and Inclusion (Handicap International), World Federation of the Deaf, International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Christian Blind Mission, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, Progetto Filippide, Rehabilitation International, Centre for the Human Rights of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, Dementia Alliance International, Samarthyam, Agrenska Foundation, P3 Foundation, Peace and Tolerance International Organization and Arab Organization of Disabled People.

[6] League of Arab States.

of the Global Action on Disability Network; and Shatha Abu Srour, of the Palestinian General Union of People with Disability.

Round table 2: women and girls with disabilities

13. The round-table discussion, under agenda item 5 (b) (ii), was co-chaired by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and Vice-President of the Conference, Rohan Perera, and Anjlee Agarwal, of the Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments. Presentations were given by six panellists: Ramla Said Omar Mohamed, of the Mombasa County Assembly, Kenya; Mercedes Juan, of the National Council for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, Mexico; Ana Pelaez, of the National Organization of the Blind, Spain; the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Ekaete Judith Umoh, of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities, Nigeria; and Victoria Lee, of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Round table 3: political participation and equal recognition before the law

14. The round-table discussion, under agenda item 5 (b) (iii), was co-chaired by the Minister for Urban Development and Housing of Ecuador and Vice-President of the Conference, Xavier Torres, and Connie Laurin-Bowie, of Inclusion International. Presentations were made by six panellists: the Vice-Minister for Human Rights of Brazil, Engels Augusto Muniz; Anderson Gitonga, of United Disabled Persons of Kenya; Yong Jia, of the China Disabled Persons' Federation; Jean Judes, of Beit Issie Shapiro, Israel; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; and Yeni Rosa Damayanti, of the Indonesian Mental Health Association.

VI. Interactive dialogue among States parties, the United Nations system and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Convention

15. The interactive dialogue under agenda item 6 was conducted at the 6th meeting, which was chaired by the President of the Conference. Presentations were given by the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka; the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Elliot Harris; and the Director of the New York office of OHCHR, Craig Mokhiber.

16. Presentations were also given by representatives of other bodies and mandate holders: the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility. A presentation was also given by a civil society representative, Zhiying Ma.

17. Following the presentations by panellists, the representatives of South Africa, El Salvador, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Telecommunication Union and Peace and Tolerance International Organization asked questions and made interventions.

VII. Decisions by the Conference of States Parties

18. At the 6th meeting, under agenda item 7, the Conference adopted unanimously three decisions proposed by its Bureau (see annex I).

VIII. Closing of the Conference

19. At the closing of the Conference, the meeting heard statements by the representatives of Ecuador, Germany, Sri Lanka and Tunisia, Vice-Presidents of the Conference.

20. The President of the Conference, in his closing statement, expressed his appreciation to all States parties and to the Secretariat, as well as to other stakeholders, for their excellent cooperation and strong support in making the eleventh session of the Conference of States Parties a success.

21. The Secretariat informed the Conference of the incoming Bureau-elect for the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Conference of States Parties: President-elect, Ecuador (Latin American and Caribbean Group); and Vice-Presidents-elect: Hungary (Eastern European Group), Singapore (Asia-Pacific Group), Finland (Western European and Others Group) and a candidate to be nominated by the African Group.

22. The Conference was adjourned at 6 p.m. on 14 June 2018.

Annex I

Decisions by the Conference of States Parties

At its eleventh session, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted the following decisions:

Decision 1: Venue and timing of the twelfth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recalling General Assembly resolution 61/106 and taking into consideration rule 1, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the rules of procedure of the Conference, decides that its twelfth session will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 13 June 2019.

Decision 2: Resources and support for the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities notes the provision of resources and support for the eleventh session of the Conference and reiterates its recommendation to the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate support to the twelfth and future sessions of the Conference.

Decision 3: Request to the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the eleventh session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities decides to request the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Conference on its eleventh session to all States parties and observers.

Annex II

President's summary of the eleventh session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Opening of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

1. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations, Georgi Panayotov, opened the eleventh session of the Conference of States Parties in his capacity as President of the Conference.

2. During the opening segment of the 1st meeting, a statement was made by the President of the Conference, who extended a special welcome to the three States parties that had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since the previous session.[1] Recognizing that significant progress had been made by the international community to implement the Convention since its adoption in 2006, the President underscored the importance of promoting the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life on an equal basis with others for achieving the goals of the Convention and more broadly for delivering on other major global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The Secretary-General reiterated that the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities was at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and that the United Nations would continue to lead by example and expand its work for mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities. He also highlighted the urgency to address the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities and to explore new approaches and tools, including a comprehensive review of the work of the United Nations in this area and the development of a policy, an action plan and an accountability framework to strengthen system-wide accountability and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities across the Organization's operations.

4. The Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Theresia Degener, stated that a twin-track approach must be taken to tackle multiple discrimination and to leave no one behind. Recognizing the diversity of persons with disabilities, she highlighted the Committee's ongoing work for advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention.

5. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, noted the importance of ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all persons with disabilities so as to leave no one behind in the implementation of the Convention. While recognizing the progress made so far, she noted the challenges that remained, including difficulties in the diagnosis and delimitation of problems, the lack of coherence and coordination among sectors and stakeholders, insufficient technical capacities and statistical information and the lack of monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms. She welcomed the important decisions taken by the Secretary-General towards ensuring accessibility and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities across all operations of the United Nations system, including the consideration of a policy, an action plan and an accountability mechanism.

[1] Ireland, Libya and Monaco.

6. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, recognized the central role that the Conference of States Parties played in the implementation of the Convention, especially through its promotion of dialogue and exchanges among major stakeholders. She also expressed her appreciation for the Secretary-General's commitment to further mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the United Nations system through the development of an action plan and accountability system and the production of guidelines for the promotion of accessibility and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the United Nations.

7. A civil society representative, Collin Allen, highlighted the importance of the full and meaningful inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the process of implementation of the Convention. He also expressed the commitment of civil society to working with Member States and the United Nations system at the national, regional and global levels for the full implementation of the Convention.

8. The Conference adopted its agenda (CRPD/CSP/2018/1) and approved by consensus the accreditation of 29 new non-governmental organizations that had applied to participate in the Conference as observers.

Round-table discussions

Round table 1: national fiscal space, public-private partnerships and international cooperation for strengthening the implementation of the Convention

9. The representative of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations and Vice-President of the Conference, Thomas Rohland, and Setareki Macanawai, of the Pacific Disability Forum, co-chaired the first round-table discussion.

10. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Macanawai indicated that national fiscal space, public-private partnerships and international cooperation needed to be explored further as sources of funding for disability-inclusive policies, programmes and projects, with a view to ensuring the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development for all, including for those with disabilities who were disproportionately represented in populations living in poverty, especially in the least developed countries and developing countries.

11. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility began her presentation by defining "national fiscal space" as room for manoeuvre in a national public budget that was available without losing the sustainability of the economy. She emphasized the importance of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a framework for the financing and realization of inclusive development, especially on items closely related to persons with disabilities, such as social protection, infrastructure and decent work. She highlighted the important role that the private sector, including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, could play in multidirectional international cooperation, especially in promoting the employment of persons with disabilities and improving environmental accessibility for inclusive and sustainable development.

12. Yayoi Kitamura, of the National Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities, Japan, focused her presentation on two main topics: statistics and data, and the definition of disabilities. Ms. Kitamura recommended that the private sector and international organizations gather data and statistics concerning persons with disabilities complementary to governments' disability statistics. She also noted the

existing differences in the definition of disabilities for receiving government services and the definition of disabilities identified in the Convention. More specifically, she used the national survey conducted by Japan on persons with disabilities as an example and highlighted the potential contribution that the private sector could make, especially in data collection and resource mobilization for the implementation of the Convention.

13. Magino Corporán, of the National Council on Disability, Dominican Republic, presented a short video that highlighted the importance of awareness-raising on the rights of persons with disabilities and the necessity of having resources and mechanisms in place for the effective implementation of the Convention. He noted some of the challenges and strategies in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, including to strengthen partnerships with the private sector, to continue progress towards a paradigm shift in work for persons with disabilities and to ensure the sustainability of the implementation of the Convention. Mr. Corporán pointed out that it was important for international cooperation, especially South-South cooperation in the region, to include setting a condition for compliance with the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals, which could contribute to inclusive and sustainable development in sectors such as tourism, infrastructure and education.

14. Vladimir Cuk, of the Global Action on Disability Network, presented the work of the Network, including collaboration and coordination of the efforts for mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in international development agendas. He expressed the Network's concern on the insufficient financial and operational commitments in the implementation of the Convention and the 2030 Agenda and highlighted the recent expansion of the Network, including attracting mainstream foundations to invest in disability-inclusive development and adding development banks to the Network's membership. Mr. Cuk also noted the Network's main areas of work, including education, social protection and humanitarian action for advancing inclusive development for persons with disabilities.

15. Shatha Abu Srour, of the Palestinian General Union of People with Disability, pointed out the gaps between the budget appropriated for persons with disabilities and the budgets for children and women in the work of the United Nations system and other international cooperation partners. She noted that persons with disabilities should be included and engaged in the design and implementation of mainstream action plans, especially in those concerning armed conflicts, emergencies and humanitarian actions. She also emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships and of corporate social responsibility for advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the promotion of accessibility. Noting that disability was a cross-sectoral issue, she called for increased investments in disability-inclusive development and humanitarian action and more dialogues between States, international agencies and persons with disabilities across the world.

Round table 2: women and girls with disabilities

16. The round-table discussion was co-chaired by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and Vice-President of the Conference, Rohan Perera, and Anjlee Agarwal, of the Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments.

17. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Perera noted that persistent cultural, social, legal, physical and institutional barriers hindered the full inclusion and participation of women and girls with disabilities in society. He also indicated that lack of accessibility in transportation and poor access to justice further compounded the isolation and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities.

18. Ramla Said Omar Mohamed, of the Mombasa County Assembly, Kenya, stated that in Kenya and many other developing countries, women and girls with disabilities faced multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, maltreatment and exploitation, as well as barriers in accessing health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and education. She highlighted the Government's measures to mainstream disability, including the establishment of the National Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities, the cash transfer programme and the Women Enterprise Fund. She made a series of recommendations for Governments to further align national strategies with the Convention and the 2030 Agenda, including better intergovernmental coordination mechanisms, targeted policies and programmes for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

19. Mercedes Juan, of the National Council for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, Mexico, began with several startling statistics. She stated that in Mexico, 6 per cent of the general population had a disability, 53 per cent of whom were women, and 27 per cent of those women were over the age of 60. She noted that Mexico was committed to "leaving no one behind" and had undertaken several initiatives to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, especially for women and girls with disabilities. The ongoing efforts of Mexico for inclusive development included a national programme addressing gender-based violence and the further inclusion of gender and disability perspectives in humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction efforts. She also noted that, with the ageing population around the world, the challenges and concerns for elderly women with disabilities should equally be addressed.

20. Ana Pelaez, of the National Organization of the Blind, Spain, noted that challenges remained to ensure the rights of 600 million women and girls with disabilities around the world and emphasized that policies for women must include women and girls with disabilities. The participation of women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations was of critical importance in policymaking processes, as illustrated by the motto of the international disability movement, "nothing about us without us".

21. The Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities noted that a gender perspective was mainstreamed throughout the Convention and also specifically referenced in articles relating to areas such as violence, employment, poverty, reproductive autonomy and awareness-raising. She stated that this twin-track approach to ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls with disabilities was the result of strong lobbying by an international coalition of disabled women's organizations and supportive government delegations to the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, which had drafted the Convention. She further noted that women and girls with disabilities continued to be left behind in almost all areas of implementation of the Convention and emphasized that in some countries there was still some legislation concerning (a) combating violence; (b) ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights; and (c) eradicating multiple discrimination that needed to be reviewed and amended and/or new laws enacted, in line with the Convention.

22. Ekaete Judith Umoh, of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities, Nigeria, noted that women and girls with disabilities continued to face multiple forms of discrimination, stigmatization and inequality in society. She addressed the challenges in mainstreaming the rights of women with disabilities in the women's movement and agenda, where organizations of women and girls with disabilities needed to be supported and formed and collaboration and communication between the women's rights movement and the disability rights movement must be increased so as to ensure the diversity of perspectives, knowledge and leadership of

women and girls with disabilities. She emphasized the importance of collaborative work to promote a safe space for women and girls with disabilities for their participation in the mainstream women's movement. Ms. Umoh recognized the adoption of the 2030 Agenda as an opportunity for the international community to advance the participation and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the women's movement and more broadly in sustainable development processes and efforts.

23. Victoria Lee, of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), noted that laws, policies and practices continued to expound singular approaches and frameworks that dismissed the multiple and intersecting facets of the identities of women and girls with disabilities, widening the gap and entrenching their exclusion. She pointed out that one major challenge that women and girls with disabilities faced in the exercise of their rights across all sectors was their access to justice. Within the sphere of access to justice and beyond, the role of data collection and consultation was critical to ensuring an intersectional approach to recognizing and capturing the uniqueness of one's experiences of multifaceted discrimination and to ensuring that they were addressed and redressed. Ms. Lee also called for more attention to be paid to some of the most marginalized groups in society, including women, with actual or perceived psychosocial disabilities or with intellectual disabilities, who were more likely to be subjected to forced treatment, in order to advance the implementation of the Convention, to transform communities and to be inclusive of all.

Round table 3: political participation and equal recognition before the law

24. The round-table discussion was co-chaired by the Minister for Urban Development and Housing of Ecuador and Vice-President of the Conference, Xavier Torres, and Connie Laurin-Bowie, of Inclusion International.

25. At the outset, the meeting watched a special video message by the President of Ecuador, Lenin Moreno Garcés. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Torres noted that the political participation of persons with disabilities was both a human right and a democratic imperative, and was critical to the full implementation of the Convention and the 2030 Agenda. He also pointed out that despite progress made across the world, more could be done to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in public and political life on an equal basis with others.

26. The Vice-Minister for Human Rights of Brazil, Engels Augusto Muniz, introduced the legislative progress made in Brazil for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, including the establishment of a supportive decision-making model which enabled persons with disabilities to exercise their civil rights. Mr. Muniz also noted that voting procedures and relevant facilities, public sector employment and public debates must be made appropriate and accessible to all so as to guarantee persons with disabilities with the rights to participate in public and political life on an equal basis with others. He also highlighted the work of the National Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the formulation and implementation of disability policies.

27. Anderson Gitonga, of United Disabled Persons of Kenya, shared his country's experience in addressing the gap between legal provisions and practice on the ground for facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life. He pointed out that key challenges included inaccessible polling stations, negative attitudes by electoral administrators and political parties, legal incapacities and the underrepresentation of persons with invisible disabilities. Mr. Gitonga also presented the progress made in Kenya, including more persons with disabilities running for political positions, promotion of and support for the participation of persons with

disabilities in the election process, and women-led efforts to influence policy. He reiterated the importance of repealing discriminatory laws and collecting disability-disaggregated data, and called for more funding to support organizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities for further promotion of political participation by all persons with disabilities.

28. Yong Jia, of the China Disabled Persons' Federation, focused his presentation on the measures that China had taken to uphold the principles and objectives of the Convention, including legal provisions that ensured the political rights of persons with disabilities and regulations that promoted accessibility to facilitate their participation in political and public life. He also highlighted that there was an employment quota system for persons with disabilities in government departments for their participation in public life. He underscored that China was ready to work with other countries to foster enabling environments for persons with disabilities for their contribution to society.

29. Jean Judes, of Beit Issie Shapiro, Israel, focused her presentation on two main strategies that had proven to be successful and impactful in promoting the political participation of persons with disabilities: (a) the broad-based partnership of civil society, disabled persons' organizations and non-governmental organizations in decision-marking processes; and (b) the facilitation of the development of self-advocates with disabilities.

30. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities noted that the Convention regarded participation as a cross-cutting issue, and thus a broad understanding of the right to political participation was needed. This included specific rights, including the right to vote, the right to be elected and to hold public office and the right to participate in public affairs. She also highlighted some of the significant barriers that persons with disabilities faced in exercising their political rights, such as the denial or limitation of legal capacity, which could lead to a deprivation of the right to elect or be elected for public office, institutionalization, which deprived persons with disabilities of any real possibility to vote, and the inaccessibility of the electoral processes. More broadly, she emphasized the right to freedom of expression and association and peaceful assembly, which made it possible for persons with disabilities and their organizations to promote changes in peaceful and legitimate ways through democratic processes, and called for greater political participation by persons with disabilities in their own development and in the development of their communities.

31. Yeni Rosa Damayanti, of the Indonesian Mental Health Association, shared the perspective of marginalized persons with psychosocial disabilities in the discussion. She noted that legislation and policies still existed that limited the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, hindering the exercise of their rights to work, to property and to political participation. She called for governmental efforts to develop a system to enable and support persons with disabilities to enjoy their human rights and to promote accessible elections for persons with disabilities.

Interactive dialogue among States parties, the United Nations system and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Convention

32. The President of the Conference opened and chaired the interactive dialogue. He emphasized the importance of the interactive dialogue segment for further strengthening the implementation of the Convention through fruitful exchanges among the different stakeholders.

33. The Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Women, noted the recent achievements in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, including the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 72/162 on the

situation of women and girls with disabilities, the recent call for developing and enhancing the system-wide policy, action plan and accountability at the United Nations and the election of the first woman expert with a disability to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. She highlighted the work of UN-Women on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities and efforts made to strengthen collaboration and partnerships with women and girls with disabilities and their organizations, including through inter-agency and multi-stakeholder mechanisms. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka also spoke in her capacity as the annual rotating Chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recognizing that there was a need for expanded engagement by more entities and for leadership from the highest level by participating group members, accompanied by funding and accountability mechanisms. The Group would also continue to promote accessibility and reasonable accommodation, including ad hoc funding processes, for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities. She reiterated that there was a unique opportunity to effectively mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life and at all levels, so that no one was left behind.

34. The Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Elliot Harris, provided an overview of the Department's efforts to support States parties to incorporate the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as that of the Convention. He highlighted the work carried out by the Department on disability since the previous session of the Conference, including the preparation of the first-ever United Nations flagship report on disability and development, capacity-building for Member States on disability-inclusive legislation, policies and programmes, and technical cooperation on disability statistics. He added that the Department was ready to continue to support Member States and other stakeholders to make more progress in disability-inclusive development, especially in the contexts of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals for all, and to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion in society.

35. The Director of the New York office of OHCHR, Craig Mokhiber, underscored that States parties should sharpen their policies and provide budget allocations and resources to ensure that the national systems and mechanisms tasked with implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals would act as enablers for persons with disabilities and empower them. He reiterated the importance of addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, to ensure that they participated and contributed on an equal basis with others. He concluded by calling upon States to make use of available tools such as the short set of questions on disability of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and the United Nations Children's Fund/Washington Group module on child functioning in the coming round of censuses to establish the necessary baseline to measure the impact of the Goals on persons with disabilities.

36. In the second part of the interactive dialogue, presentations were given by representatives of other mandate holders and a civil society representative.

37. The Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities reported on the implementation of the Convention from the viewpoint of the Committee, noting the 177 ratifications by Member States, the review of 70 State party reports and the adoption of six general comments to date. She highlighted the main concerns of the Committee on the implementation of the Convention in domestic disability law and policy, namely, denial of legal capacity and forced treatment, segregation in education, residential institutionalization, and discrimination and exclusion from

political and cultural participation. She also noted that the Committee had invited States parties to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in their voluntary reports at the high-level political forum on sustainable development since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

38. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities noted that accountability was essential for the development and improvement of the work of the United Nations. As a mandate holder, she had been working to promote the adoption of tools to facilitate and strengthen accountability and coherence in the work of the United Nations system for the rights of persons with disabilities. The Special Rapporteur also highlighted her six thematic reports focusing on social protection, participation in decision-making, inclusive public policies, support services, the sexual and reproductive health of girls and young women with disabilities, and the right to legal capacity and decision-making with support. All of the reports took into account the current situation, described good practices and aimed to guide States in the implementation of disability policies. She also cited her work in promoting disaggregated data and standards, along with advancing collaboration and dialogues in international communities.

39. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility expressed her appreciation to the Secretary-General for the confidence placed in her as a messenger to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and universal accessibility. She emphasized her mandate to raise awareness of the issues concerning persons with disabilities, including their rights and perspectives in the context of the 2030 Agenda, for which she had produced a short video to begin the eleventh session of the Conference with support from the Secretariat. The Special Envoy stated that she had also worked closely with multiple stakeholders on a campaign for boys, girls and adolescents with disabilities in the transition from school to society and had contributed to other aspects of the work of Member States for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, within her mandate and expertise.

40. A civil society representative from the One Plus One Group for Disability, China, Zhiying Ma, introduced the work of that organization for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, with a focus on women and girls with disabilities. She said that the grave shortage of data on women and girls with disabilities and their socioeconomic situation and vulnerability to different forms of domestic and gender-based violence remained challenging, especially in rural and other resource-poor areas. She noted that, at the intersection of gender and disability, the rights of women and girls with disabilities affected all women's rights and must be integrated in the women's rights movement more broadly. For the global community to further advance the rights, perspectives and leadership of women and girls with disabilities, she called for: (a) joint efforts and constructive collaboration among governments, disabled persons' organizations and academia on data collection; (b) strengthened support systems for women and girls with disabilities to advance their education and income levels, including enhanced support, services and legal protection; and (c) more space for civil society organizations to work with governments to include and empower women leaders with disabilities.

Closing of the Conference

41. In their closing statements, the representatives of Ecuador, Germany, Sri Lanka and Tunisia, Vice-Presidents of the Conference, expressed their appreciation for the leadership of the President and full cooperation received from States parties, including fellow Bureau members, as well as the support from the Secretariat in the preparations for and organization of the Conference.

42. In his closing remarks, the President of the Conference expressed his appreciation to all States parties for the confidence entrusted to the Bureau to organize and convene the eleventh session of the Conference, and to the Secretariat for its support in the organization of the Conference. He emphasized that achieving the effective implementation of the Convention required the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in decision-making processes at all levels and highlighted the contribution of the Conference in this regard.

43. The President of the Conference welcomed the nine newly elected experts to serve on the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities starting from 1 January 2019 and summarized the highlights of the three-day programme, which covered a wide range of issues relating to the implementation of the Convention in the context of the 2030 Agenda. He pointed out that the three round-table discussions at the eleventh session had focused on a number of crucial issues for the full implementation of the Convention, including national fiscal space, public-private partnerships and international cooperation, women and girls with disabilities, political participation and equal recognition before the law. He noted that the Conference had reaffirmed its role as a useful platform to forge partnerships among different stakeholders, including Member States, persons with disabilities, civil society, national human rights institutions and the United Nations system, to further promote the principles and objectives of the Convention and to contribute to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and their empowerment. The President also underscored that in order to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first, enhanced efforts should be made to collect quality data disaggregated by disability status. The President expressed his commitment to the promotion of the effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes at all levels as an important aspect of their empowerment and inclusion in society on an equal basis with others.

Annex III

Non-governmental organizations accredited to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at its eleventh session

1. A Leg to Stand On
2. Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
3. Association of Disabled People of Uzbekistan
4. CCS Disability Action
5. Center for Independent Living
6. Children and Young People with Disability Australia
7. Disability Federation of Ireland
8. Disabled Human Rights Nepal
9. Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand
10. Disabled Women's Network Canada
11. Empowerment Through Integration
12. Entire Power in Social Action, Nepal
13. Gerakan Peduli Disabilitas Dan Lepra Indonesia
14. Inclusion Ireland
15. Korea Disability Law Association
16. Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired Persons
17. National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities, Saint Lucia
18. National Union of Organizations of the Disabled, Liberia
19. National Union of People with Disabilities of Tajikistan
20. Nepal Association of the Blind
21. Nepal Disabled Women Association
22. Psychological Centre for Research
23. Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, United Kingdom
24. SourceAmerica
25. Sozialhelden
26. Speech Pathology Association of Australia
27. Tunisian Organization for the Defence of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
28. Union of the Deaf in Bulgaria
29. Voice of Specially Abled People